

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

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FOL REPEAT OF STATE 001699 TO AMMAN BEIRUT CAIRO DAMASCUS GENEVA  
JIDDA KUWAIT DHAHRAN JERUSALEM KHARTOUM MANAMA TEHRAN TEL AVIV  
TRIPOLI RABAT LONDON PARIS MOSCOW ROME USUN NATO SANAA BAGHDAD TUNIS  
JAN 3

QTE:

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 3, 1975:

QUOTE: I HAVE RECEIVED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS TODAY, THIS  
MORNING, ABOUT ONE ASPECT OF THE SECRETARY'S INTERVIEW  
WITH BUSINESS WEEK, AND THIS IS CONCERNING HIS COMMENTS ON  
THE EUROPEAN ATTITUDES TOWARD THE UNITED STATES, IN THE  
MIDDLE EAST; AND I THINK HERE THAT ONE MUST READ VERY  
CAREFULLY THE QUESTION AND THE SECRETARY'S RESPONSE, AND  
I WOULD LIKE TO DO THIS FOR YOU AGAIN:

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THE QUESTION THAT HE RECEIVED WAS IN EUROPE: "THE CHARGE

IS MADE THAT YOU HAVE SOLD OUT WESTERN CIVILIZATION FOR EIGHTEEN MONTHS OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WHY DO EUROPEANS FEEL THAT HOSTILITY TOWARD THE U.S. AND TOWARD YOU?

AND HIS REPLY WAS: "WELL OF COURSE, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHO THESE EUROPEANS ARE, JUST FOR MY OWN EDUCATION -- AND WHAT WOULD THEY HAVE US DO?"

AND THE SECRETARY INTERPRETED THIS QUESTION BY BUSINESS WEEK IN TERMS OF THE ATTITUDES OF THE "EUROPEANS" AND NOT OF GOVERNMENTS -- AND THAT IS WHY HE CONCLUDED HIS COMMENT HERE BY SAYING, AS YOU CAN ALL READ, "NO FOREIGN MINISTER EVER SAYS THIS."

AND I TALKED THIS OVER WITH THE SECRETARY THIS MORNING, AND HE WANTED ME TO MENTION THIS.

Q. WELL, BOB, MAY I ASK FOR THE CORRECT INTERPRETATION OF ANOTHER PART OF IT?

A. YES.

Q. SOME PEOPLE DETECTED A RATHER IMPERIAL TONE IN THIS -- I DIDN'T ANALYZE IT TO THAT EXTENT -- BUT I NOTICE THAT WHEN HE SPEAKS OF THE POSSIBLE USE OF MILITARY FORCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE OIL PROBLEM -- WHETHER THERE IS A SLIGHT POSSIBILITY, OR A GREAT POSSIBILITY -- DOESN'T ENTER INTO THE THING THAT I AM CONCERNED WITH. THERE IS NO REFERENCE IN HIS REMARKS ANYWHERE, CONCERNING THE FACT THAT CONGRESS MIGHT HAVE A ROLE IN DECIDING WHETHER THE U.S. USES MILITARY FORCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AND HIS REMARKS ABOUT CONGRESS, ELSEWHERE, ARE PRETTY CRITICAL -- ABOUT THE RESTRICTIONS THEY PUT ON THE TRADE BILL, "DESTROYING THE LEVERAGE." I AM JUST WONDERING WHAT THE INTERPRETATION SHOULD BE OF THAT.

A. THE FACT THAT HE DID NOT MENTION ANY CONGRESSIONAL ROLE -- AND THE POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY INTERVENTION.

Q. YES.

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A. IS THAT SPECIFICALLY YOUR QUESTION?

Q. I THINK THAT'S IT -- YES.

A. WELL I WOULD SAY THAT PROBABLY THE REASON THAT THIS WASN'T DONE IS BECAUSE HE CONSIDERED SUCH A POSSIBILITY SO REMOTE, AS HE INDICATED IN HIS INTERVIEW -- I THINK IF ONE READS HIS ANSWER VERY CAREFULLY, I THINK ONE

CAN INTERPRET THAT.

HE ALSO AMPLIFIED, AS YOU ALL KNOW -- OR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE READ SOME OF THE TICKERS TODAY -- AMPLIFIED ON THIS SUBJECT, LAST NIGHT AT THE AIRPORT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID AT THE AIRPORT?

A. I DO NOT. ALL I CAN DO IS REFER TO IT.

Q. BOB, DO THESE INTERVIEWS SPELL THE END OF "QUIET DIPLOMACY" THAT WE'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT?

A. IT CERTAINLY DOES NOT SPELL THE END OF QUIET DIPLOMACY WITH REGARD TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND OTHER SENSITIVE NEGOTIATING SUBJECTS, WE WILL CONTINUE QUIET DIPLOMACY.

Q. WELL DON'T THESE INTERVIEWS IMPLY, AT LEAST, THE SECRETARY'S POSITION ON CERTAIN ELEMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST- INCLUDING OIL AND ENERGY AND MILITARY INTERVENTION?

A. I THINK THAT WITH REGARD TO THE SUBJECTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS THAT I GET ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT EVERY DAY -- I DON'T THINK THE SECRETARY DEPARTED FROM THE GUIDANCE THAT I HAVE BEEN GIVEN HERE.

Q. DID THE EUROPEANS, OR ANY OF THE ARAB STATES OR ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT REGISTER ANY STATEMENT OR REACTION TO THIS, WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

A. NO. WELL I WAS JUST ASKED BY ENDRE ABOUT EUROPEANS -- AND I AM UNAWARE OF ANY ARAB REACTION WHATSOEVER.  
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Q. ANY STATEMENTS?

A. ANY STATEMENTS WHATSOEVER.

Q. BOB, WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT MR. HELMS, HIS ARRIVAL, HIS APPOINTMENTS ETCETERA?

A. I READ OVER WHAT MR. HARE HAD TO SAY YESTERDAY ON THIS SUBJECT, AND I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO IT. THE ONLY THING I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT WHEN HE SEES THE SECRETARY, I WILL LET YOU KNOW. I HAVE NOTHING ON IT.

Q. BOB, HAS THE SECRETARY DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITH THE

PRESIDENT -- EITHER BEFORE, OR AFTER THAT INTERVIEW  
APPEARED?

A. I DO NOT KNOW THE SUBSTANCE OF ALL THE CONVERSATIONS  
THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY HAVE WITH THE PRESI-  
DENT -- BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THEY DISCUSS THE MIDDLE EAST  
IN GREAT DETAIL, VERS FREQUENTLY.

Q. SPECIFICALLY, IS THAT STATEMENT IN CONSONANCE WITH  
THE PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY?

A. I WOULD ASSUME IT WOULD BE, YES.

Q. BOB, THERE IS A RUMOR AROUND TO THE EFFECT THAT THE  
SECRETARY TOLD SOME CONGRESSMAN THAT ISRAEL MUST WITH-  
DRAW TO ITS PRE-'67 BORDERS AND GIVE UP EAST JERUSALEM AS  
WELL -- IN THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS --IF THERE ARE  
ANY.

AND WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO CONFIRM WHETHER OR NOT THIS  
IS HIS VIEW, AND WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS REALLY THE  
REAFFIRMATION OF THE "ROGERS PLAN" THAT HE IS TALKING  
ABOUT.

A. WHAT'S YOUR QUESTION?

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Q. WELL, IS THE ROGERS PLAN STILL ALIVE? AND IS THE  
SECRETARY PURSUING THAT?

A. YOU HAVE BEEN TOLD -- ALL OF US HAVE BEEN TOLD, MANY  
TIMES, THAT THERE IS NO "U.S. PLAN" FOR A SETTLEMENT OF  
THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. THAT IS NOT THE WAY THE  
SECRETARY WORKS -- AS YOU ALL KNOW.

HE TALKS WITH BOTH SIDES, DIFFERENT SIDES, TO TRY AND BE  
AS HELPFUL AS HE CAN; BUT WE DO NOT HAVE "A PLAN."  
AS FOR THE SPECIFIC RUMOR THAT YOU MENTION, I KNOW  
NOTHING ABOUT IT.

Q. BOB, EARLIER THIS AFTERNOON AT THE WHITE HOUSE BRIEF-  
ING, MR. NESSEN WOULDN'T SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT SUPPORTED  
HE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT. DID YOU CONSULT WITH MR.  
NESSEN? WAS THERE ANY CONSULTATION ON THAT?

A. DID I "CONSULT WITH MR. NESSEN?"

Q. WELL WAS THERE ANY CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE WHITE  
HOUSE PRESS OFFICE AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE,  
ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS SECRETARY WASN'T

GOING TO BACK UP WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID?

A. I WOULD HAVE TO SEE -- I WOULD LIKE TO SEE WHAT NESSEN SAID ON THAT.

Q. WHAT HE SAID WAS: "THE PRESIDENT UNDERSTANDS THE SECRETARY'S ANSWER IS A HIGHLY QUALIFIED ANSWER ON A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION. AND ON THE TWENTY OTHER QUESTIONS," HE SAID, "THE PRESIDENT HAS NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD."

A. THAT'S A GOOD STATEMENT.

Q. IN THE INTERVIEW, THE SECRETARY REAFFIRMED HIS CONFIDENCE IN STEP-BY-STEP DIPLOMACY. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT VISITORS? AND CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN ALLON'S PLANS TO BE HERE ON THE 10TH, A WEEK FROM TODAY? IS FAHMI COMING HERE? HAS THERE BEEN ANY EGYPTIAN RESPONSE TO WHATEVER ALLON BROUGHT HERE --  
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AND SUCH MATTERS?

A. I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE BRIEFINGS THE LAST THREE OR FOUR DAYS, BARRY, AND YOUR QUESTIONS ON THIS. I CANNOT GIVE YOU ANYTHING WITH REGARD TO ANY VISITORS. AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE PLANS FOR FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON ARE STILL THE SAME. I JUST CAN'T BE OF ANY HELP TO YOU TODAY, ANYWAY. IF I GET ANYTHING, FOR INSTANCE, ON ANY OTHER VISITORS WHO MAY BE COMING, AS I HAVE SAID IN THE PAST, I WILL GET IT TO YOU AS SOON AS I CAN GET A HOLD OF IT.

Q. BOB, CAN YOU ADD ANYTHING OR PROVIDE ANY SPECIFICS TO AMPLIFY WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID WHEN HE SAID IN REPLY TO ONE OF THE QUESTIONS, I -- "I BELIEVE THERE IS SOME POSSIBILITY OF POLITICAL PROGRESS BEFORE THE SPRING." WHAT IS THAT BASED ON, THAT GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC FORECAST?

A. I CAN'T GO BEYOND WHAT HE SAID THERE, BERNIE, I'M SORRY.

Q. BOB, ANYTHING ON THE REPORTS OF IRAN OCCUPYING OR PATROLLING BOTH SIDES OF THE NARROW STRAITS IN THE PERSIAN GULF?

A. NO. -- LET ME LOOK INTO THAT FOR YOU. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT WHICH WOULD BE VERY ELUCIDATING FOR

FOR YOUJN I'M AFRAID. END QUOTE.

SUBSEQUENT TO THE BRIEFING, THE FOLLOWING WAS PROVIDED TO  
NEWSMEN: "WE HAVE SEEN THE WASHINGTON POST REPORT, BUT  
HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT. THE ONLY RECENT  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN IRAN AND OMAN THAT WE ARE AWARE OF THAT  
AFFECTS THE STRAIT IS THAT ANNOUNCED JULY 27 OF LAST  
YEAR DELINEATING THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WHICH LIES BETWEEN  
THE TWO COUNTRIES." KISSINGER UNQTE KINSSINGER

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